

Attorney's Docket No. IJ-124B-R&DPATENT**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE - EXAMINING GROUP 1731**

In re: *Dube et al.*  
 Appl. No.: 09/624,820  
 Filed: July 25, 2000  
 For: METHOD OF IMPROVING FLAVOR IN SMOKING ARTICLE

Confirmation No.: 7464  
 Group Art Unit: 1731  
 Examiner: D. Walls

March 10, 2003

BOX AF  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL in the above-identified patent application.

- ☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR §1.27.  
☐ No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

(COL. 1)		(COL. 2)	(COL. 3)	SMALL ENTITY		OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY	
CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDIT. FEE	OR RATE	ADDIT. FEE
TOTAL	* 29	** 25	= 4	X9=	\$	X18=	\$ 72
INDEP	* 4	*** 3	= 1	X42=	\$	X84=	\$ 84
<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEP. CLAIM				+140=	\$	+280=	\$
				TOTAL ADD FEE \$		OR TOTAL	\$ 156

\* If the entry in Col. 1 is less than the entry in Col. 2, write "0" in Col. 3.

\*\* If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, write "20" in this space.

\*\*\* If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, write "3" in this space. The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found from the equivalent box in Col. 1 of a prior Amendment or the number of claims originally filed.

- ☒ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 16-0605 in the amount of \$156.00.  
☐ A check in the amount \$ to cover the additional fee is enclosed.

RTA01/2133602v1

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Attorney's Docket No. JJ-124B-R&DPATENT**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116 – EXPEDITED  
PROCEDURE – EXAMINING GROUP 1731****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re: Dube *et al.* Confirmation No.: 7464  
Appl. No.: 09/624,820 Group Art Unit: 1731  
Filed: July 25, 2000 Examiner: D. Walls  
For: METHOD OF IMPROVING FLAVOR IN SMOKING ARTICLE

March 10, 2003

BOX AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION  
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

This following is offered as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action  
mailed December 10, 2002. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1-2, 4, 9, 10, 15, and 17 as follows:

1. (Three times amended) A method for improving the flavor and aroma characters of a  
smoking article, comprising:

providing an aqueous mixture consisting essentially of water, a reducing sugar and a  
hydroxide, wherein the reducing sugar is selected from the group consisting of a pure reducing  
sugar, high fructose corn syrup, and a phosphate-substituted reducing sugar;

subjecting said mixture to heat treatment for a time and under conditions sufficient to  
produce a flavorful caramel composition, wherein said heat treatment is conducted at a  
temperature of at least about 150°C;

applying said flavorful composition to a tobacco material; and  
preparing a smoking article comprising said tobacco material.

RTA01/2130430v1

Received from &lt;919 420 2260&gt; at 3/10/03 4:06:08 PM [Eastern Standard Time]

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